

**Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A plastic cap comprising:  
an opening defined by a ~~an annular~~ top wall ~~having an opening formed therein~~; and  
a ~~generally conical~~ downwardly tapered inner wall positioned beneath the opening and  
structurally interrelated to the top wall, ~~wherein~~ the inner wall ~~includes~~ including a plurality of  
radially extending striations formed therein, wherein each of the striations has a thickness.
2. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1 further comprising ~~an annular outer wall~~  
~~depending from the periphery of the top wall and including~~ means for fixedly associating the cap  
with an open end of a fluid-holding vessel.
3. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1, wherein the inner wall depends from ~~about~~  
the opening top wall.
4. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a lower  
annular wall joining the top wall ~~and to~~ the inner wall ~~are joined to each other by a lower annular~~  
~~wall depending from about the opening.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1 further comprising an upper annular wall  
extending ~~upward~~ upwardly from ~~and generally perpendicular to~~ the top wall.
6. (Original) The cap of claim 5 further comprising a wick contained within the cap.

7. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the wick is positioned substantially above the top wall.
8. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the wick is a pile fabric.
9. (Original) The cap of claim 6 further comprising a seal affixed to a top surface of the upper annular wall.
10. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the combined force needed to penetrate the wick and the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 10 pounds force.
11. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the combined force needed to penetrate the wick and the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 7 pounds force.
12. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the combined force needed to penetrate the wick and the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 4.5 pounds force.
13. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1, wherein the inner wall is conically shaped and has an angle of from about 25° to about 65° relative to the longitudinal axis of the cap.
14. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1, wherein ~~each of the striations extends from a start-point at or near an apex of the inner wall~~ has a rounded bottom.
15. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the thickness ratio between non-striated and striated portions of the inner wall is in the range of about 10:1 to about 1.25:1.

16. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the average thickness of striated portions of the inner wall is between about 0.002 inches and about 0.008 inches, and wherein the average thickness of non-striated portions of the inner wall is between about 0.01 inches and about 0.02 inches.

17. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1, wherein the striations are formed ~~on~~ in an inner surface, an outer surface or both the inner and outer surfaces of the inner wall.

18. (Original) The cap of claim 17, wherein the inner wall has between 3 and 12 of the striations.

19. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1, wherein each of the striations comprises a radially extending groove in the inner wall.

20. (Original) The cap of claim 1 further comprising one or more radially extending ribs formed on an inner surface of the inner wall, each rib being positioned between a pair of adjacent striations.

21. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein an inner surface of the inner wall is at least partially coated with a lubricant.

22. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the force needed to penetrate the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 8 pounds force.

23. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the force needed to penetrate the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 6 pounds force.

24. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the force needed to penetrate the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 4 pounds force.

25. Canceled

26. (New) A leak-proof collection device formed by fixedly associating the cap of claim 2 with an open end of a fluid-holding vessel.